

I. Integrate Nature and Design for Eugene's Climate

Celebrate Important Natural Features

Eugene is a city known and loved for its natural setting. From our buttes and forested ridges to our river and wetlands, the local landscape has shaped the history of Eugene and become a core component of our culture. As the city continues to grow and develop, celebrating the natural environment reinforces our unique community character, reminds us frequently of the joy of living here, and helps us to pass on a cherished part of our heritage to future generations.

1: INTEGRATE and restore waterways, wetlands, and other natural features into site design.

2: EMPHASIZE and **RESPECT** the natural topography in site layouts, circulation and building designs.

3: PRESERVE and frame views of special places and landscape features.

4: PRESERVE significant site features such as trees, groves, or boulders.

5: RELOCATE significant site features elsewhere, preferably on-site, when they cannot be preserved.

6: BLEND the transition between natural areas and landscaping areas.

Conserve Energy and Natural Resources

Eugeneans place a high value on sustainability, something demonstrated by a broad range of actions: from overarching policy decisions by city leadership about land use and emissions to the daily choices of individual citizens about how we get around town and what products we buy. One of the sectors with the greatest impact on energy use, resource consumption and greenhouse gas emissions is the way we build and use our homes, schools, workplaces and other buildings. The energy use in building construction and operation also becomes a significant cost that is ultimately borne by us as property owners, end users, or taxpayers. As a community that respects and protects the natural environment, what we build and how we build it must be carefully considered.

1: INCORPORATE low impact stormwater management strategies into site design.

2: PLANT native and drought tolerant trees and shrubs.

3: DESIGN buildings and landscapes to conserve, store and re-use water.

4: ORIENT street and building design for maximum solar access in the winter, and plant trees for maximum summer shade.

5: INCLUDE provisions for onsite renewable energy or connect with a shared district renewable energy network.

6: CONSERVE existing buildings through adaptive reuse, renovation or historic preservation.

7: INCORPORATE solutions from the tradition of northwest architecture that are attuned to the specifics of our climate and natural resources.

8: MAXIMIZE energy efficiency through design that considers the construction, on-going operation and performance, and maintenance of buildings.

9: BUILD with durable, local materials with low embodied energy and a long life span.

Promote Outdoor Lifestyles

Eugene is a destination for track and field enthusiasts from around the world and all who enjoy active lifestyles. From ridgeline trails to a network of bicycle lanes, from the diverse parks and recreation facilities to the Ruth Bascom Riverbank Path system, residents and visitors share a wealth of opportunities for activity. Not only do these resources help keep Eugeneans fit and healthy, but when people go outdoors they meet neighbors, build community, and learn about their natural surroundings. Outdoor lifestyles draw new people and new business to the city, and encourage them to stay and invest their talents and resources. As options for safe, active transportation increase, the city becomes less dependent on automobiles and fossil fuels.

1: CONTRIBUTE to the network of large, interconnected and flexible parks and public spaces to serve a wide variety of community activities and needs.

2: PRIORITIZE open space as a central, organizing element in neighborhoods and large development sites.

3: CREATE a well-connected hierarchy of public spaces in activity centers.

4: PROVIDE clear pedestrian and bike connections to and between public spaces that are attractive and safe for all ages; maximize new connections to existing public spaces.

5: LOCATE higher-density housing adjacent to or near parks and natural features.

6: ORIENT buildings to promote visual connections to parks and natural areas.

7: INCLUDE semi-public spaces in addition to other public space.

Create Successful Public Spaces

Successful public spaces are the hallmark of a great city. From the expanse of Alton Baker Park to the postage stamp-sized Japanese American Art Memorial Plaza, Eugene's public spaces strive to be unique, beautiful, and welcoming. Whether buzzing with activity or calm and reflective, public spaces are the center of the community and the place where city life is shared. They are the settings for formal events and chance meetings, for cultural events, commerce, recreation, remembrance, and protest. Successful public spaces provide a place for the people of Eugene to act as a community and deepen the love that we have for our city.

1: DEFINE parks and public spaces with active building fronts and pedestrian-friendly streets.

2: CONFIGURE the size and shape of public spaces for human comfort, proportions, and intended uses.

3: PROVIDE opportunities within and near public spaces for retail businesses, restaurants, coffee shops, and street vendors.

4: MAXIMIZE natural, everyday observation and experience of public and semi-public spaces through high visibility and open connections.

5: ORIENT and configure public spaces to maximize light, sun, seasonal shade and available views.

6: DESIGN a diverse network of public spaces for a variety of activities, user groups and hours of use to enhance the vitality of neighborhoods and unique sense of place.

7: INCORPORATE art of many scales into projects that can be experienced from the public realm.

Enhance the Regional Habitat Network

The Ridgeline Trail and Willamette River Greenway are large, green ribbons running through the region, linking the habitats of the surrounding forest lands, oak savannah, and farms. Similarly, smaller, local connections course through the community. When such habitat opportunities are carefully preserved, they foster an attractive and essential diversity of plants and wildlife. Benefits of a connected habitat network extend to people as well, as thriving natural systems purify the air and water, and encourage recreation and active transportation.

1: CONSERVE natural areas in private and public spaces and introduce new ones.

2: PROVIDE links to nearby natural features through habitat corridors.

3: UTILIZE abundant and continuous plantings and natural features along streets, alleys, paths, buffer strips and within developments.

4: INTRODUCE structures and gardens in urban areas that provide for the needs of native wildlife.

5: REDUCE light pollution and protect delicate habitat areas by using pedestrian scale, downcast lights equipped with shielding.

Bring Farms and Gardens into the City

The world-class agricultural soils surrounding Eugene support a diversity of crops, including filberts, hops, grapes, honey, herbs, and vegetables. This proximity to our farming heritage has fostered a thriving local food movement, supporting farms both large and small, and providing alternatives to food imported from other regions and countries. Urban agriculture extends this productivity into the city, and can take many forms: community gardens that provide food to neighborhoods, backyard gardens for household produce, urban farm animals, fruit trees and common gardening space in apartment

courtyards, and rooftop container gardens that supply restaurants. The close connection to the source of our food increases our knowledge about what we eat and how it is produced, while also encouraging healthy eating habits.

1: PROVIDE space for small-scale and specialty farming and food production as a transition between urban development and adjacent agricultural lands.

2: LOCATE housing clusters around small-scale farms to allow for shared farming and agrarian lifestyles.

3: CONNECT areas of denser housing with public or private community garden space.

4: CREATE opportunities for urban agriculture in new residential development.

5: PLANT edible landscapes, such as berries and fruit trees, in privately owned, semi-private, semi-public, and public areas.

Design for Climate and Natural Resiliency

Our climate is changing, and with this change comes an increase in extreme weather, varying temperatures, and unreliable precipitation. Attention to adaptability and resilience in the design of neighborhoods, infrastructure, and buildings helps us to prepare for the unpredictable. This preparation can lead to significant benefits in safety and health in the event of dangerous weather and other hazards, and can help the community and individuals avoid costly repairs. Many solutions, especially those techniques learned from the traditional architecture of the region, are low-tech and inexpensive to integrate. These solutions can make daily living more enjoyable, sustainable, and cost-effective.

1: AVOID designated flood plains, landslide- or fire-prone locations when alternatives are available. When development within them is necessary, use current best practices to mitigate potential impacts.

2: REDUCE summer heat gain with shade trees and light-colored roofing and paving.

3: DESIGN building and site systems for flexibility and adaptability.

4: DESIGN resilient buildings with passive techniques, such as awning and canopies, operable windows, water reuse, and insulation, in order to remain inhabitable and comfortable during an extended interruption of utilities.